GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:421
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
PAK-NORTH KOREA NUKE NEXUS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem regarding Pakistan-North Korea nuke nexus as reported in the Pioneer dated October 19, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matters reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI YASHWANT SINHA)

a) & b) Yes Sir. The U.S. State Dept announced on October 16, 2002, that during the visit of Assistant Secretary James A. Kelly to North Korea in earlyOctober, North Korea admitted to having a program to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. A New York Times report published on October 18, 2002 quoted US intelligence officials having stated that Pakistan was a major supplier of critical equipment for DPRK`s clandestine nuclear weapons programme. The report stated that equipment such as gas centrifuges used to create weapons-grade uranium appeared to have been `part of a barter deal` beginning in the late 90s in which North Korea supplied Pakistan with missiles in turn.

c) The report of Pakistan`s links with North Korea in the nuclear field has not come as a surprise to the Government. Pakistan`s missile programme has been developed with assistance from other countries, including North Korea. Reports that Pakistan has in return aided North Korean nuclear programme need to be investigated seriously. The problem of clandestine transfers and acquisition of missile and nuclear technologies involving Pakistan is a matter of deep concern because Pakistan today is the epicentre of international terrorism.